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Admiral

Discusses

Viet Role

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The American commitment that has held the world together since the end of World War II is the major stake in the Vietnam war, retired Vice Admiral William F. Raborn told members of the Trenton Council of the Navy League last night.

Speaking at the league's eighth annual "Navy Day" dinner-dance, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency credited that American commitment with the avoidance of World War II.

"The free world has remained free and relatively peaceful for the last 22 years because the American commitment has held firm all through the world," Raborn said.

He saw in the Vietnam conflict a stake "much more than Vietnam or even Southeast Asia." By refusing to ignore aggression, Raborn said, the United States can prevent a major war "until a fair peace can be established."

The world, he said, can exist half free and half not, but "we do not know for how long we can exist in freedom if that ratio changes sharply toward not-free."

"We are in Vietnam," Raborn said, "to prevent that ratio from changing."